

REMARKS

The Official Action dated August 18, 2005 has been carefully considered. Accordingly, the present Amendment is believed sufficient to place the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, claims 34, 44 and 68 are amended to include the limitations of claims 80, 81 and 82, respectively. Additionally, claims 37 and 38 are amended for a matter of form. It is believed that these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter and do not raise any new issues subsequent to final rejection, whereby entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, claims 33, 44-50, 55-57, 60-71 and 77-79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Tahi et al U.S. Patent No. 6,358,279. Claims 34-39 and 76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Tahi et al. Claim 41-43 and 73-75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tahi et al and further in view of the Werblin U.S. Patent No. 6,413,276. However, the Examiner also noted that claims 80-82 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

As noted above, independent claims 34, 44 and 68 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 80-82, respectively. As claims 80-82 previously depended from claims 34, 44 and 68, respectively, it is believed that claims 34, 44 and 68 correspond with claims 80-82 rewritten in independent form and therefore are prima facie allowable and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and/or §103 have been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

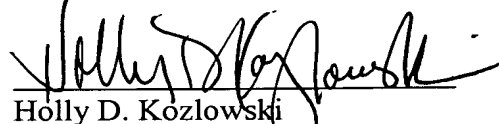
Claims 40, 51-54, 58, 59 and 72 were previously withdrawn from consideration as being directed to nonelected species. As claims 34, 44 and 68 from which these claims

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depend are generic, it is believed that rejoinder of nonelected claims 40, 51-54, 58, 59 and 72 is warranted and hereby requested.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and places the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Holly D. Kozlowski
Registration No. 30,468
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP
1900 Chemed Center
255 East Fifth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 977-8568

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